

REMARKS

The pending claims in the application are claims 14-73, 85-91 and 93, of which claims 14, 45, 85, 91 and 93 are in independent form while the remaining claims in dependent form. The Examiner has rejected all pending claims as being either anticipated by or rendered obvious in view of a prior art reference to Strandberg (U.S. Patent No 6,054,999).

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for conducting the interview of January 27, 2009. As indicated in the interview, claims 14, 91 and 93 have been amended herein and claims 45 and 81-90 have been cancelled. Furthermore, the following points were discussed and agreed upon during the interview:

I. Strandberg provides the following pertinent teachings:

1) Strandberg is directed to providing human motion to a cartoon figure, such as the type of figure found in the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. (Strandberg, col. 1, lns. 18-33).

2) Strandberg teaches animating a single "cartoon or graphic figure" based on the movements of an "actor" (Strandberg, col. 3, lns. 33-38).

3) The actor has "no significance whatsoever with respect to the appearance of the figure" and the system "does not measure proportions, but solely mutual angular relationships of different body members and joints." (Strandberg, col. 4., lns. 28-37).

4) The head of the figure remains that of the original cartoon or graphic figure. (Strandberg, col. 5., lns. 42-52).

II. The following relevant differences exist between Strandberg and the amended claims:

1) The claimed invention combines portions of different bodies into a single composite body. For example, a head from a first body is combined with remaining body parts of a second body to form the single composite body. This directly contradicts Strandberg which seeks to maintain the integrity of the entire original body. That is, Strandberg does not change the head, arms, legs, torso, etc., of the original characters or figures. (Strandberg, col. 3, lns. 33-38, col. 5., lns. 42-52).

2) The claimed invention is capable of resizing the first portion of the first body to proportionally conform with the second portion of the second body based on derived reference information. For example, when the invention forms the single composite body, the head from the first body proportionally matches the remaining body parts of the second body. This is in direct contradiction with Strandberg which “does not measure proportions, but solely mutual angular relationships of different body members and joints.” (Strandberg, col. 4., lns. 28-37).

Based on the above agreed upon differences between Strandberg and the claimed invention, it was agreed upon that Strandberg teaches away from the

claimed invention such that patentability of the claims is not prevented by Strandberg.

Applicant has provided new claims 95-97 to further define the patentable scope of the invention. Applicant provides concurrently herewith payment for the three additional independent claims.

Based on the above amendments and arguments, Applicant is hopeful to receive a Notice of Allowance in the next communication from the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,
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